

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS (Claim Listing under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c))

Claim 1. (Currently amended) In a window-based computing system having an application program executed by the computing system and displayed within an application window on a display of said computing system, said application program including a plurality of application tools that are represented by application-tool buttons respectively that are to be displayed within a predefined application-tool area when desired, said computing system including a cursor to be displayed on said display when desired for indicating functioning and user's manipulation of a user-input device, a method comprising the steps of:

In response to receiving a user input from said user-input device,

Determining whether any of said application-tool buttons are displayed ~~within said application-tool area,~~

~~When it is determined~~ In response to a determination that there is no application-tool button displayed ~~within said application-tool area:~~ displaying a plurality of said application program's application-tool buttons within said application-tool area, and automatically causing said cursor to be displayed within said application-tool area without receiving any cursor-movement instruction from said user-input device, and browsing through said application-tool buttons ~~when a cursor-movement input is received.~~

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said application-tool area is a window, which is to be visible on said display when any of said application-tool buttons are displayed therein, said method further comprising the step of: ~~when it is determined~~ In response to a determination that there is at least one of said application-tool buttons displayed within said application-tool area and thus that the application-tool area window is visible on said display, hiding said application-tool area window.

Claim 3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of: causing said cursor to be in a local mode such that movement of the cursor is restricted within said application-tool area.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said application-tool buttons are arranged in form of a virtual geometric shape so as to provide instructions for sequentially displaying said application-tool buttons within said application-tool area, whereby said virtual geometric shape is to be partially displayed within said application-tool area when desired, and wherein ~~said step of browsing through~~ the method further comprises the step of:

In response to receiving a cursor-movement input for directing the cursor to move in a desired direction,

Determining whether there is substantial space for moving the cursor in said desired direction before the cursor encountering an external boundary of said application-tool area;

When it is determined that there is substantial space for moving the cursor in said desired direction before the cursor encountering the external boundary of said application-tool area, moving said cursor in said desired direction;

When it is determined that there is no substantial space for moving the cursor in said desired direction before the cursor encountering the external boundary of said application-tool area, scrolling said application-tool area's content displayed.

Claim 5. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said application-tool buttons are arranged in such a way that said virtual geometric shape is a virtual rectangle such that said application-tool buttons form a plurality of virtual rows and columns, and wherein said step of scrolling comprises the steps of:

Determining whether in said desired direction there is any virtually hidden application-tool buttons outside said application-tool area's boundary;

When it is determined that in said desired direction there is virtually hidden application-tool buttons outside said application-tool area's boundary, moving said hidden application-tool buttons into said application-tool area for display.

Claim 6. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 5, wherein two opposite sides of said virtual rectangle are virtually attached to one another such that said virtual rectangular forms a virtual cylinder so as to provide continuous scrolling experience in a desired scrolling direction.

Claim 7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim ^{S.M.} 4, wherein said user-input device is a handheld remote-control device.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) In a window based computing system having an expandable menu for display on a display of said computing system when desired and a cursor to be displayed on said display when desired for indicating functioning and user's manipulation of a user-input device, a method comprising the steps of:

In response to receiving a user input from said user-input device,

Displaying said menu in its expanded mode on said display such that a plurality of items included in said menu are displayed on said display; and

Automatically causing said cursor to be visibly located on said expanded menu without receiving any cursor-movement instruction from said user-input device.

Claim 10. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 9, wherein said step of displaying is to be performed before said step of causing.

Claim 11. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 9, wherein said step of displaying is to be performed after said step of causing.

Claim 12. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of: causing said cursor to be in a local mode such that movement of the cursor is restricted within the expanded menu displayed.

Claims 13-23. (Canceled)

Claim 24. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said application program is a spreadsheet or the like, a web browser or the like, a media player or the like, a word processor or the like, a CAD application or the like, an image editor or the like, an image viewer or the like, a motion-picture editor or the like, motion-picture viewer or the like, a web publishing application or the like, a document reader or the like, an Instant Messaging client or the like, an Instant-Messaging-related application or the like, an E-mail client or the like, or an E-mail-related application or the like.

Claim 25. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said user-input device is a handheld remote-control device.

Claim 26. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said user-input device is a Computer mouse.

Claim 27. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 9, wherein said user-input device is a handheld remote-control device.

Claim 28. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 9, wherein said user-input device is a Computer mouse.

Claim 29. (new) A computer-implemented method comprising the steps of:

In response to receiving a cursor-movement command signal from a user-input device for representing a user's instruction of moving a cursor situated at a current cursor position on a display toward a first desired direction, determining, based on a predefined factor, whether any item reasonably close to said current cursor position is an item desired to be located by the user, and

In response to a determination that a first item is an item desired to be located, causing said cursor to move to said first item without receiving any further command signal from said user-input device.

Claim 30. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein said user-input device is a handheld remote control device.

Claim 31. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein said user-input device is a computer mouse.